



Junior Volleyball Club Handbook 2008-09

Introduction

Matchpoint Volleyball Club began operations in October 2002 based in the Columbus, Ohio area. It is part of the Matchpoint Volleyball Company whose mission is to provide a single source for volleyball-specific performance improvement for athletes and coaches alike. Matchpoint Volleyball is unique because of its comprehensive offerings and the high level of experience and expertise of its staff.

Teams will be coached by high caliber coaches, many of whom have played successfully at college level and above. Only serious and committed players will be considered for our teams and practices will be focused and intense.

Matchpoint Volleyball Club Mission Statement

Matchpoint Volleyball Club is committed to provide members with the best possible opportunities to improve their playing standards through high quality practices using the best coaches available, and a comprehensive tournament program. Our goal is to help members achieve their potential and move on to the highest level appropriate to their ability.

General Information

There are two levels of USA Volleyball Junior competition:

- Regional Teams
- National Teams

National and Regional teams can compete to the National Tournament.

National qualifier tournament options include Indianapolis, IN; Tampa Bay, FL; Kansas City, KS; Spokane, WA; Austin, TX; Baltimore, MD; Reno, NV; and Minneapolis, MN. The club is likely to opt for the Indianapolis tournament.

The number of age groups and teams will be determined based on the quality of players that tryout for the club. The club will be considering teams in all age groups between 16 and 18

Note:

- Only 3 players from the same school can be on the same team for grades 7-12 in Ohio.
- A high school coach cannot coach players from their own school. (Exception to this is boy's teams)
- USA Volleyball rules have some differences from high school rules.

Tryout dates

Visit the Matchpoint Volleyball web site for tryout dates and information:
www.matchpointvolleyball.net.

Prior to participating in a tryout session, players must turn in the following documents:

- Player Profile sheet
- Matchpoint Volleyball Waiver Form
- USA Volleyball Medical Form
- OVR Waiver

Players must also bring a \$10.00 Tryout Fee. Checks should be made payable to Matchpoint Volleyball. The \$10.00 tryout fee is non refundable. The fee and the required documents may be turned in on the day of tryouts, however advance registration by mail is strongly encouraged.

Successful athletes will be placed in either a National or Regional team by the coaches AFTER the first two weeks of practice, according to their ability. This is not a negotiable process.

The best players will play in the National teams, unless they cannot commit to the prescribed practice schedule.

Tryouts are closed to parents. The reason for closed tryouts is to create a productive and distraction free environment.

The tryout will be comprised of physical/individual skill tests and lastly, performance in game situations. Selection criteria are based on our observations of performances at the tryout and the individual's potential. Athletes selected will be expected to display athletic ability, skill, potential, determination, desire, good work ethic, competitiveness, and an ability to work as a team member.

What happens next?

Following the tryout session, the coaching staff will inform athletes of the next procedure to take place and will hold a selection meeting.

Selected players will be informed at the tryout or contacted by phone or email and asked to sign the Matchpoint Junior Volleyball Player Contract. You must return the signed contract with your first installment of the fees no later than ten days after our offer, or it

may be withdrawn. All players will be contacted within 72 hours of the tryout. Once you sign the contract, you may not play for any other USA Volleyball Junior program during the 2008-09 season.

Athletes will be assigned to the appropriate age group for the first two to four practice sessions. These practices are very important because the coaches will evaluate players in depth. At this time, players will be placed on a National team or a Regional team.

What if I Play Other Sports?

Girl's winter high school sports will be permitted while spring sports will NOT! The only exception will be for our satellite teams (outside the Columbus area) If an athlete accepts to play for the Matchpoint Club and is found to be playing a high school Spring sport, they will be asked to cease the high school Spring activity or be expelled from the club without refund.

The boy's teams have a different season but are still expected to make Matchpoint practices and tournaments take preference unless a school grade is involved.

Practice Schedule

All Matchpoint, teams require dedication on the part of the athlete for the team to be a success. If an athlete misses ANY unexcused practices, they will be dismissed from the club without refund. An unexcused absence is defined as one that is not due to family emergency-death in the family etc... A doctor's excuse will be requested.

The girl's club will begin practice in December. These practices are not mandatory and are to let players and coaches get to know each other in readiness for the upcoming season.

Practice venues will be Davis Middle School and the YMCA Downtown Columbus.

There will be no practices between Christmas Day and New Years Day.

National teams and Regional teams attending a qualifier will practice one time per week (usually Sundays) during the months of January and February.

Boy's practices are expected to begin during October.

Practices are closed to parents but team chaperones may attend. During the months of January and February there may be possible competition dates for girl's National teams.

The girl's club season will then operate from the end of the high school basketball season in March until May (June for Open teams if going to National Finals)

2008-09 Club Fee and Teams Structure

The club fees are due in two equal installments, the first within 10 days of accepting a place on a Matchpoint team and the second installment will be due one month after that. Fees may be paid by the following methods:

- Cash or a check payable to “Matchpoint Volleyball” Any returned check will incur a \$25 penalty.

Girls

National Teams: \$2000.00

Regional Red Teams: \$1500.00

Regional Black Teams: \$1300.00

Regional Red teams will enter a qualifier if they show sufficient quality to be able to compete at that level. Regional Black teams will include some long-distance tournaments within the OVR region.

Boys

Winter National Teams: \$1100.00

Winter Regional Teams: \$1000.00

Spring Nationals Teams: \$500.00 for existing Winter Team players, \$850.00 for new players.

Security Bond for Girls Open Teams:

All Girls National team club members must provide the club with a check for \$500 as a security bond that will only be cashed in the event of a player leaving the team if the team qualifies for Nationals.

Mail all fees (checks only), payable to “Matchpoint Volleyball” to: Matchpoint Volleyball, PO Box 218415, Columbus, OH 43221 Phone: (614) 206-6140.

Do not give any fee money to a coach. Coaches have been instructed not to accept fees. See the Fee Chart on the Following Page for an Explanation of Fees and what your Matchpoint Fees include.

What Your Fees Include

	Girls			Boys		
	National	Red	Black	Open	Club	Nat
Mizuno Spandex	2	2	1			
Mizuno Jersey	2	2		2	2	2
Mizuno Shorts				2	2	2
Printed Jersey			1			
Mizuno Socks	1	1				
Socks			1			
Ball	1	1	1			
Warm Ups	1	1	1	1	1	1
Practice days per week	3	2	2	2	2	2
Registration Fees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Facility Hire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Coach Salary	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tournament Entry Fees	8*	7	6	6*	6	1
Officials Fees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Coaches travel and hotels	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Administration costs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

* Includes entry fees to out- of-region tournament(s) and/or qualifier(s)

Fees DO NOT include the cost of parents' and athletes' travel or accommodation at any tournament the club enters. It is anticipated that girls Regional teams will play OVR Regionals as one of their tournaments and National teams will enter the Bid tournament plus two qualifiers as part of their program. Boys National will play in a qualifier and OVR Regionals and Regional teams will play OVR Regionals. The Boys Spring Nationals team's fee includes cost of Nationals entry fee and coaches travel and accommodation expenses.

Entry fees to National Qualifying tournaments and coaches travel and accommodation costs are included for all National teams.

Fund Raising

We offer Matchpoint players the opportunity to earn some of their playing fees through fund raising. One of the major fund-raisers that we offer is selling ads for the Matchpoint Player Guide. The guide will be used for college recruiting and is to be distributed at our local tournaments. Each player can sell ads to businesses or relatives. The player receives 80% of the fee. The remaining 20% will go towards the cost of production.

The prices of the ads are:

\$25.00+ Personal Ad (25 words or less)

\$35.00 Business Card

\$75.00 ¼ Page

\$125.00 ½ Page

\$200.00 Full Page

\$350.00 Inside front cover, back cover, and inside back cover.

Any abuse of fundraiser may result in expulsion from the club without refund. Details of fundraisers will be made available during the season. All personal ads from family and friends, no matter the dollar amount, will be of 25 words or less. There is no limit to the amount of sponsorship for these ads. If the family member or friend owns a business, they should submit a business ad. Businesses that submit ½-page or full-page ads receive a copy of the guide from the player. Businesses submitting ads less than ½ page receive a copy of the advertisement only.

Checks are not to be made payable to “Matchpoint”, they are to be made payable to the parent or guardian of the player who will then forward a check to Matchpoint for 20% of the amount received.

- Each player in the club receives two copies of the guide.
- Ads are printed as they are submitted.
- It is our hope to have the guide printed and distributed by mid-March.
- Any abuse of this fundraiser may result in the expulsion from the club without refund.
- Details of other fundraisers will be made available during the season.

Since the boy's teams begin their season earlier than the girl's, a separate media guide can be produced earlier for them if interest is sufficient. The boy's teams will also be included in the guide produced in March.

Playing Time

We do not guarantee equal playing time on any team or at any event.

Matchpoint has the philosophy that what you pay for is instruction time during practices. Playing time for athletes is determined by attendance, attitude, effort, performance, the athlete's potential, the team's needs at the moment, and the team's needs in the future, and is left solely to the discretion of the Matchpoint Coach.

The "coaching decision" is not up for debate or question. It is the athlete's responsibility to ask what they can improve on to get more playing time. Athletes will be expected to play in any position to benefit team performance.

While representing Matchpoint, all athletes are expected to behave in a responsible manner. Determination of what is 'responsible' lies solely with Matchpoint. Matchpoint intends to promote nothing but the highest of standards and a professional image. We require all game shirts and warm up shirts be tucked in at all times. Those that have previously gone through this program have worked hard at establishing Matchpoint Volleyball as a CLASS OPERATION.

Any athlete damaging equipment owned by Matchpoint or any facility used by the Club during practices, tournaments or other functions, or at lodging facilities will be required to reimburse the Club and/or facility for the damages before continuing in the Club. In some cases, the athlete will be dismissed from the Club with NO reimbursement.

An athlete with a delinquent account during the current season may be denied the privilege of playing in a tournament and/or asked to sit out at practice until the account is paid or arrangements are made with the Director.

The athlete's payments must be up to date before the athlete will be allowed to participate in any tournaments. In case of inclement weather, a coach or someone from a phone chain will call your home to notify you of practice cancellations.

We strongly encourage athletes who make a Matchpoint team to take this participation seriously. This means we expect Matchpoint practices and tournaments to be the highest priority.

Practice Rules

If an athlete cannot be at practice, the athlete is expected to call the coach with an explanation. It is the athlete's responsibility (not the parent's) to reach the coach before the practice starts.

Scheduled practice time is start time; not arrival time. Plan on arriving at least 15 minutes prior to the start of each practice. There is a consequence for arriving late to practice and competitions. If an athlete does not give the coach a courtesy call notifying that they will be late for practice, for every minute the athlete is late, the athlete will forfeit their playing time to the equivalent number of points for the following tournament.

Volleyball shoes are to be carried into practice and tournaments and only worn for practice and tournaments. This is to ensure that the shoes last longer and our facility surfaces remain clean and safe.

Horseplay by athletes or coaches at practice or tournaments is strictly prohibited.

All athletes are expected to make every effort to attend every practice. Only an illness serious enough to keep the athlete home from school or a genuine family emergency are legitimate excuses for missing practice.

Regardless of the reason, if an athlete misses practice, her playing time may be affected.

Athletes are encouraged to bring water, in an unbreakable container, to practices and tournaments. Absolutely no glass containers are allowed in the gym. All athletes are responsible for their own equipment.

Chewing gum at practice or at tournaments will be left to the discretion of each coach.

If an athlete misses ANY unexcused practice, they will be dismissed from the club without refund. An unexcused absence is defined as one that is not due to family emergency, death in the family, illness etc... A doctor's excuse will be requested.

Tournament Rules

All athletes are expected to be in the gym, ready to warm-up, at the scheduled arrival time. This usually means the athlete needs to arrive at the site 15 minutes prior to the scheduled arrival time. Earlier is always better.

Proper conduct is expected for all members of the Club at all time. This includes athletes, parents, and supporters. This also means treating supporters from other teams, parents, and officials with respect.

Athletes and/or parents are expected to provide transportation for their athlete to and from tournament sites and practices.

In the event of a serious situation arising, the club director will contact the parties involved and attempt to resolve the situation. If a suitable outcome cannot be achieved, the club member will be asked to leave without recourse.

If an athlete cannot be at a tournament, the athlete is expected to call the coach with an explanation. It is the athlete's responsibility (not the parent's) to reach the coach before the tournament starts.

Athletes will not be allowed to leave the tournament site until excused by the coach. Except in cases of true emergency, an athlete who has an officiating assignment may not leave a tournament before the assignment is completed.

Officiating is the shared responsibility of the entire team. All Matchpoint athletes are required to help with the line judging, scorekeeping, score flipping, and officiating. Each coach will determine a procedure their team will follow for officiating assignments.

Every player is required to stay until the entire team can leave. Please do not ask the coach if you can leave early. You are expected to stay!

Grievance Procedure

Matchpoint Volleyball is a seriously competitive and intense club that demands complete commitment. We have a zero tolerance policy; therefore there is NO GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE.

Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates situations where everyone may not be happy all the time. Knowing when to communicate and how to communicate with your athlete's coach is a concern for almost every parent at some time during the season. Most often the concern is how to inquire about issues surrounding playing time.

At Matchpoint, we encourage the athlete to take responsibility for their participation. For this reason we expect the player to talk to the coach when he/she has a problem concerning his/her playing time, or if he/she is unclear about what the coach expects from him/her either in practice or in a competition. The appropriate way to do this is for the athlete to ask the coach what he/she needs to do to get more opportunities to play in matches. Most of the time, the player knows why they may not be playing as much as a team-mate when the parent may not.

Parents can best help their athlete by helping her set some goals to achieve more opportunities.

Coaches will not discuss "coaching decisions" with a parent. These "coaching decisions" include, but are not limited to, specific match decisions such as who played when, where, and how long. Also, who was subbed out and when, etc. The coach will not be required to defend his/her thought process or conclusions in the determination of playing time, and it is improper for a parent to request that.

Other Policies

Matchpoint will not tolerate hostile, aggressive confrontations between a parent and any official, or a parent and any coach, or a parent and any athlete, or a parent and any other parent, whether the coach, athlete or other parent is a member of Matchpoint or not. Violation of this policy will result in the athlete being dismissed from Matchpoint without refund. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

It is inappropriate for an athlete or a parent to approach other Matchpoint members about a problem the athlete or parent is having with a Matchpoint coach, about objections to coaching decisions, or about disagreement with an administrative decision. Asking uninvolved people to take sides in an issue is unfair to the third party and to the Club. For the psychological health of the teams and the Club as a whole, grievances need to be handled between the parties involved and in the proper manner.

If a player or parent is approached and asked to listen to, or express an opinion about matters between two other parties in the Club, they are strongly encouraged to refer the complaining party to take the matter up either with the Coach in question, the Head Coach and/or the Club Director.

Any member who, as a third party, hears remarks or stories about Matchpoint, its employees or its policies, that cause the member to be concerned, is encouraged to contact the Head Coach and/or the Club Director immediately to determine the facts, or to alert the club administration to a situation it may be unaware of. It is detrimental to everyone involved to repeat complaints you hear or overhear to other uninvolved parties.

Please refrain from negative comments around your daughter and the other athletes.

Young players are vulnerable and if they hear complaining about the coach, the coach's style or Matchpoint policies, this can have an adverse effect on their performance and/or attitude.

Repetitive complaining to the athlete(s) or other third parties that interferes with the Club's efforts to pursue its stated mission and purpose may be cause, in the sole determination of the Club, to ask a member to resign **WITHOUT REFUND OF FEES PAID**.

Tournaments

Tournaments can last anywhere between 1 and 4 days. Teams will begin pool play where they will play each team in their pool with the winning teams advancing to a Gold bracket and other teams advancing to a Silver or Bronze bracket. Most tournaments are best 2 out of 3 sets with the deciding set to 15 points

Seating is sparse in most of the gyms so we recommend that you bring your own chairs. Some players bring pillows and sleeping bags so they can rest between rounds if a camping area is provided. Games, homework, books, etc. are all recommended for some of the longer tournaments. Arrive early so you can help set up your team area and get ready to warm-up. There is no camping at most facilities due to it being a fire hazard.

Except for starting times, most tournaments do not follow a set time schedule.

Matches will begin 10 minutes after the end of the previous match. If the tournament is run well, it should be over around 6:00 p.m. To be on the safe side, expect to be there all day.

Hotels:

Hotel bookings will be the responsibility of the families participating in each individual tournament. Matchpoint Volleyball Club will not be responsible for making any hotel arrangements.

Chaperones:

Chaperones will be designated for each team; this person will be responsible of the team at all tournaments. The chaperone may have a wide variety; of duties such as hotel accommodations, driving directions for families for the tournaments etc....

Commitment:

The parents and athletes need to be committed to Matchpoint Volleyball Club throughout the entire season... **START TO FINISH!**

All athletes are required during the first 2 weeks of club practice to notify the coaching staff of any potential conflicts that may interfere with practices or tournaments throughout the season e.g. ACT, SAT. This will help in the scheduling process.

Players receiving offers to visit colleges must visit colleges on their own time.... Not weekends that the club is playing in tournaments.